1.  Definition  
  
a.      Identify/define topic: This is a cancer that forms in the skin.  
There are different types.  The most common is melanoma which forms in  
the lower level of skin.  
  
b.      History/Origin of item: Stem cells in the body allow skin to endure  
wear and tear and constantly make new skin.  Sometime there is a  
genetic mutation that produces cancerous cells in the skin rather than  
a new layer of skin.  
  
2.  Signs/Symptoms  
  
Specific examples: Basal cell carcinoma usually appears in sun-exposed  
areas of your body.  Symptoms are waxy bumps, and flat, skin-colored  
or brown lesions.  
Squamous cell carcinoma signs appear on sun-exposed areas with  
symptoms including firm red nodule, and flat lesions with scaly  
surfaces.  
  
Melanoma can develop anywhere on your body.   Melanoma can occur on  
skin that hasn't been exposed to the sun. Melanoma can affect people  
of any skin tone.  Signs include large brown spots, moles that change  
is color size or bleed, small lesions with portions that are red,  
white, blue, or black  
  
How long they should last before concern: If you see any changes in  
your skin or any of these symptoms go to your doctor right away.  
Everyone should have a yearly mole check.  
  
Genetic, hereditary or environmental factors: Certain genetic  
mutations can grow cancer inside your skin, but the most common way to  
get skin cancer is over exposure to the sun.  Tanning in tanning beds  
and not wearing sun screen while outside can lead to skin cancer.